Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CU-04 MCT-01 HA-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EUR-12 OPR-02 //098 W

-----088469 131504Z /40

R 130945Z MAR 78 FM AMEMBASSY DACCA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8433 INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA /AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 3663 AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI CINCPAC AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

BANGKOK PASS AMBASSADOR SCHNEIDER

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PINS, BG

SUBJ: STUDENT TROUBLE CONTINUES

REF: DACCA 1471

- 1. DACCA UNIVERSITY REMAINS ON STRIKE AND IT APPEARS THAT THIS WILL CONTINUE FOR SOME TIME. ADDITIONALLY, IF WE ARE CORRECTLY INFORMED, EACH OF THE OTHER FIVE UNIVERSITIES ARE ALSO CLOSED (THERE IS A CONFLICTING REPORT ABOUT RAJSHAHI).
- 2. AT MEETING ON MARCH 12, STUDENT ACTION COMMITTEE BROKE INTO TWO PARTS. ONE COMPRISES STUDENT WINGS OF JSD, NAP LED BY MASHIUR RAHMAN (ONE SEGMENT OF FORMER CONFIDENTIAL

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BHASHANI GROUP) AND UNITED PEOPLE'S PARTY (KAZI ZAFAR AHMAD). THIS COLLECTION ISSUED ITS PROGRAM ON MARCH 13 AT MORNING RALLY ON THE CAMPUS. IT WAS STRONGLY ANTI-ZIA, DEMANDED IMMEDIATE END TO MARTIAL LAW (OF COURSE, NOT SPECIFYING WHAT WOULD TAKE ITS PLACE), PREPARATIONS FOR FREE ELECTIONS UNDER A PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM, RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS AND APPOINTMENT OF A NEW PAY COMMISSION.

- 3. THE SECOND GROUP INCLUDES THE AWAMI LEAGUE, NAP (MUZAFFAR) AND CPB (MONI SINGH) STUDENT WINGS. IT APPEARS TO HAVE A SIMILAR SET OF DEMANDS BUT HAS DISPLAYED WHAT HAVE BEEN DESCRIBED TO US AS PRO-SOVIET AND SOME PRO-INDIAN PLACARDS. IT ALSO CALLS FOR REHABILITATION OF MUJIB AND PUNISHMENT FOR ALL WHO MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN HIS ASSASSINATION AND THOSE OF OTHER AWAMI LEAGUE LEADERS. A FORMAL PRESENTATION OF ITS DEMANDS IS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 14. ONE OF OUR SOURCES SAYS THAT THE MEETINGS OF THIS GROUP ARE FINANCED BY THE SOVIET EMBASSY.
- 4. SEVERAL SOURCES STATE THAT THERE IS A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF WEAPONS ON THE CAMPUS AND THESE POSE A THREAT TO STUDENTS (ESTIMATED TO BE 80-90 PCT) WHO WOULD LIKE TO GET ON WITH THE JOB OF CLASSES AND EXAMINATIONS. SOVIETS AND INDIANS ARE CREDITED WITH SUPPLY OF MONEY AND WEAPONS, BUT THIS IS UNVERIFIED.
- 5. POLICE CONTINUE TO BE PRESENT AT THE DACCA UNIVERSITY CAMPUS IN LARGE NUMBERS. BERGESEN

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